

MAY 15 2006

Application No.: 10/776,619

Amendment dated: May 15, 2006

Reply to Restriction Requirement dated: April 13, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method of computer aided detection of product defects, comprising:

responsive to performance data of a product or a product line, comparing with a computer the performance data to performance benchmarks,

when the comparison identifies an instance of product performance that fails a benchmark, determining whether the instance relates to a product defect previously undetected in the product line,

if so, generating an alert regarding the previously undetected product defect.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising, if the instance relates to a previously detected product defect, determining whether the instance indicates that the defect is occurring within the product at a rate that exceeds statistical limits established for the defect and, if so, generating an alert.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising performing diffusion modeling for the product to determine an extent to which defective products have proliferated in a distribution chain for the product.

10-16 (Cancelled)

85825_1.DOC

- 2 -

Application No.: 10/776,619

Amendment dated: May 15, 2006

Reply to Restriction Requirement dated: April 13, 2006

17. (Previously Presented) Computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a processing device, causes the device to:

responsive to performance data of a product of a product line, compare the performance data to performance benchmarks,

when the comparison identifies an instance of product performance that fails a benchmark, determine whether the instance relates to a product defect previously undetected in the product line, and

if so, generate an alert regarding the previously undetected product defect.

18. (Original) The medium of claim 17, wherein, if the instance relates to a previously detected product defect, the instructions further cause the device to determine whether the instance indicates that the defect is occurring within the product at a rate that exceeds statistical limits established for the defect and, if so, generating an alert.

19. (Original) The medium of claim 17, wherein the instructions further cause the device to perform diffusion modeling for the product to determine an extent to which defective products have proliferated in a distribution chain for the product.